E/2006/26
E/CN.5/2006/6

United Nations

Commission for Social Development

Report on the forty-fourth session (18 February 2005 and 8-17 February and 22 March 2006)

Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2006
Supplement No. 6

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United Nations • New York, 2006

Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

ISSN 0251-964X

Summary

At its forty-fourth session, held on 18 February 2005 and from 8 to 17 February and 22 March 2006, the Commission for Social Development considered the priority theme "Review of the first United Nations Decade on the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)", and the review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups.

On the priority theme, the Commission heard a keynote address by Clare Short of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and held a panel discussion. The Commission decided to transmit the Chairperson's summary of the discussion to the coordination segment on "Sustained economic growth for social development, including the eradication of poverty and hunger" of the 2006 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council.

Also under the priority theme, the Commission heard a presentation by the Division for Social Policy and Development on a technical cooperation project "Tackling poverty together: the role of young people in poverty reduction".

The Commission adopted a resolution on "Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development", according to in which the Council would recommend that the Commission continue to give prominence to the social dimensions of the New Partnership during its forty-fifth session.

In connection with its review of plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups, the Commission adopted a resolution on modalities for the first review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002. To promote wider awareness of the first review and appraisal, a panel discussion was organized in order to bring before the Commission experts with in-depth knowledge of ageing issues and bottom-up participatory methodologies. The Chairperson's summary of the discussion is contained in the annex to the present report.

The Commission also recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a resolution on a comprehensive and integral international convention to protect and promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities and a resolution on promoting youth employment.

The Commission addressed the subject of the further review of the methods of work of the Commission, and recommended to the Council that the theme for the 2007/2008 review and policy cycle would be "Promoting full employment and decent work for all", taking into account the interrelationship between employment, poverty eradication and social integration.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/227 on international migration and development, the Commission decided to transmit, through the Economic and Social Council, to the high-level dialogue on international migration and development, planned in September 2006 during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, the Chairperson's summary of the panel discussion on "International migration and migrants from a social perspective", held during the forty-second session of the Commission.

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Promoting youth employment*

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming the resolve of Heads of State and Government, as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] to develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work and, as contained in the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2] to make the goals of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people, a central objective of their relevant national and international policies and their national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies, as part of their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling and reaffirming the commitments relating to youth employment made at the major United Nations conferences and summits since 1990 and their follow-up processes,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 54/120 of 17 December 1999, in which the Assembly took note with appreciation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes adopted at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in 1998,[3] which set forth important commitments regarding youth employment, and recalling also Assembly resolutions 56/117 of 19 December 2001 and 57/165 of 18 December 2002,

Recognizing that young people are an asset for sustainable economic growth and social development, and expressing deep concern about the magnitude and disproportionate effect upon youth of unemployment and underemployment throughout the world and its profound implications for the future of our societies,

Recognizing also that Governments have a primary responsibility to educate young people, to encourage them to seek training so as to increase their employability and to create an enabling environment that will promote youth employment,

Recognizing further the need to promote, protect and fully respect the basic rights of young workers as defined by relevant International Labour Organization and other international instruments,

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* For the discussion, see chap. III, paras. 34-37.

[1] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[2] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[3] See WCMRY/1998/28, chap. I, resolution 1.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the global analysis and evaluation of national action plans on youth employment;[4]

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Economic Commission for Africa entitled *Economic Report on Africa, 2005: Meeting the Challenges of Unemployment and Poverty in Africa*;[5]

3. *Further takes note* of the relevant provisions on employment of the Declaration of Mar del Plata of 5 November 2005 adopted at the Fourth Summit of the Americas, and the conclusions of the Presidency of the European Council of 23 March 2005, in which it was agreed that the European Youth Pact would be an integrated part of the Lisbon strategy;

4. *Encourages* the international community to provide technical and capacity-building support to developing countries, as appropriate, in supporting national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist, mainstreaming youth employment;

5. *Encourages* Governments that have prepared national reviews and action plans on youth employment to move forward to implementation and also encourages Governments that have not yet prepared their reviews, national action plans or progress reports to do so as soon as possible;

6. *Also encourages* Governments to develop their national action plans through collaboration among governmental bodies, representative youth organizations, employers' and workers' organizations and civil society, to promote partnerships among public authorities, the private sector, educational institutions and civil society and to integrate these action plans into their broader national development programmes, including poverty reduction strategy documents, where they exist, in order to create a methodology to evaluate the plans and strategies and to prioritize therein the necessary resources for their implementation;

7. *Further encourages* Governments to contribute to the possible development by the appropriate intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations of new policy-oriented indicators to better monitor and evaluate progress in implementing their national action plans, and invites the Youth Employment Network to contribute to this process, taking into account young people, including students and those who are unemployed, underemployed, working in the informal economy or who may have dropped out of the labour market altogether;

8. *Urges* Governments to consider youth employment as integral to their overall strategies for development and collective security, and within this context to give renewed attention to the United Nations Millennium Declaration[1] commitment concerning decent and productive work for young people as key to achieving the Millennium Development Goals;

9. *Renews* the invitation contained in General Assembly resolutions 57/165 of 18 December 2002 and 58/133 of 22 December 2003 to the International Labour Organization, in collaboration with the United Nations Secretariat, the World Bank and other relevant specialized agencies, within the framework of the Youth Employment Network, to assist and support, upon request, the efforts of

[4] A/60/133.

[5] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.K.9.

Governments in the elaboration and implementation of national reviews and action plans;

10. *Encourages* Governments to improve the education, training, mobility, vocational integration and social inclusion of young people and, where appropriate, to promote entrepreneurship and facilitate the reconciliation of family life and working life, in order to support the integration of young people into the labour market;

11. *Encourages* Governments to facilitate interaction among educational institutions and the public and private sectors to prevent unemployment and the low returns on investment in training that result from a skills mismatch, and in this regard calls for technical support from relevant United Nations organizations and the international community for national and regional programmes such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development[6] and other regional economic groups in order to facilitate public-private integration;

12. *Underlines* that non-formal and informal learning are complementary elements to the formal educational process and are useful instruments in facilitating the transition from education to employment;

13. *Invites* new countries and partner organizations to join the Youth Employment Network, encourages the lead countries to strengthen the work of the Network as a peer exchange, support and review mechanism, and, in support of the further development of this mechanism, invites the International Labour Organization, in close cooperation with the World Bank and the United Nations Secretariat, within the framework of the Youth Employment Network, to undertake regular updates of the global analysis and evaluation of progress made in the development and implementation of national reviews and action plans on youth employment;

14. *Recommends* that the Youth Consultative Group of the Youth Employment Network be strengthened so that, in addition to its overall advisory role, it can play a more active role at the country level through its constituent youth organizations in supporting the development and implementation of national action plans;

15. *Encourages* Governments to promote the participation of national youth organizations in supporting the development and implementation of their national action plans on youth employment;

16. *Notes with appreciation* the provision by some Member States of expertise and financial resources to support the activities of the Youth Employment Network, and invites all Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the Network in support of action taken at the country level within the framework of the Network;

[6] A/57/304, annex.

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his comprehensive report on the implementation of the cluster entitled "Youth in the global economy" of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond,[7] to be provided to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, and the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2007 through the Commission for Social Development at its forty-fifth session, information on the implementation of the present resolution, including progress achieved by the Youth Employment Network.

Draft resolution II
Comprehensive and integral international convention to protect and promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 56/168 of 19 December 2001, by which the Assembly established an ad hoc committee, open to the participation of all Member States and observers of the United Nations, to consider proposals for a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, based on the holistic approach in the work carried out in the fields of social development, human rights and non-discrimination and taking into account the recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission for Social Development,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/10 of 21 July 2005 on a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 60/232 of 23 December 2005,

Reaffirming the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the need for their full enjoyment to be guaranteed to persons with disabilities, without discrimination,

Convinced of the contribution that a convention will make in this regard, and welcoming the firm support of the international community for such a convention and the continued engagement in its elaboration,

Recognizing the strong commitment and the positive steps taken by Governments to promote and protect the rights and inherent dignity of persons with disabilities, including through collaboration and cooperation at the regional and international levels, with the aim of strengthening national capacities and supporting national efforts in order to improve the living conditions of persons with disabilities in all regions,

Welcoming the important contributions made so far to the work of the ad hoc committee by all stakeholders,

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* For the discussion, see chap. III, sect. B.

[7] General Assembly resolution 50/81, annex.

1. *Welcomes* the progress achieved by the ad hoc committee in the negotiation of a draft convention at its seventh session, and invites Member States and observers to continue to participate actively and constructively in the Committee, with the aim of concluding a draft convention and submitting it to the General Assembly, as a matter of priority, for adoption, at its sixty-first session;

2. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to continue to contribute to the process of negotiation of a draft international convention, bearing in mind its area of expertise and the positive impact of a convention in promoting an inclusive approach to social development;

3. *Welcomes* the contributions of the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development to the process of elaboration of a draft convention, and requests the Special Rapporteur to contribute further to the work of the ad hoc committee, drawing from her experience in the monitoring of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities;[8]

4. *Requests* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to support the work of the ad hoc committee, and underlines the importance of continuing cooperation and coordination between the two offices in order to provide substantive and technical support to the committee and to promote public awareness regarding its work, including in collaboration with the Special Rapporteur;

5. *Requests* bodies, organs and entities of the United Nations system to continue to participate, as appropriate, in the ad hoc committee and to contribute to its work;

6. *Invites* non-governmental organizations, national disability and human rights institutions and independent experts with an interest in the matter to continue their active participation and contributions to the ad hoc committee, and encourages the relevant bodies of the United Nations to continue to promote and support such active participation of civil society, in accordance with General Assembly decision 56/510 of 23 July 2002 and Assembly resolution 57/229 of 18 December 2002;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Special Rapporteur to report to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution III
Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,[9] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General

* For the discussion, see chap. III, paras. 5-8.

[8] General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex.

[9] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8).

Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000,[1] the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development[10] of 16 September 2002, General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and its support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Welcoming the conclusions of the African Union Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation, held in Ouagadougou on 8 and 9 September 2004,

Recognizing the commitments made in meeting the special needs of Africa at the 2005 World Summit,[2]

Cognizant of the link between priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which the international community committed itself to addressing the special needs of Africa, and the need to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those set out in the Millennium Declaration,

Bearing in mind that African countries have primary responsibility for their own economic and social development, that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized and that their development efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, and in this regard recalling the support given by the International Conference on Financing for Development[11] to the New Partnership,

1. *Welcomes* the adoption of the chapter entitled "Sustainable development for Africa" in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation");[12]

2. *Emphasizes* that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development;

3. *Welcomes* the progress made by the African countries in fulfilling their commitments in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development[3] to deepen democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management, and encourages African countries, with the participation of stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify their efforts in this regard by developing and strengthening institutions for governance and creating an environment conducive to attracting foreign direct investment for the development of the region;

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[10] General Assembly, resolution 57/2.

[11] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7).

[12] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

4. *Emphasizes* that democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society, and effective participation by civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector are among the indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

5. *Welcomes* the good progress that has been achieved in implementing the African Peer Review Mechanism, in particular the completion of the self-assessment process in some countries, the hosting of country support missions and the launching of the national preparatory process for the Peer Review in others, and urges African States to join the Peer Review, as a matter of priority, as soon as possible, and to strengthen the Peer Review process to ensure its efficient performance;

6. *Welcomes* the efforts made by African countries and regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, in developing sectoral policy frameworks and implementing specific programmes of the New Partnership as well as mainstreaming a gender perspective and the empowerment of women;

7. *Emphasizes* the importance of African countries continuing to coordinate, on the basis of national strategies and priorities, all types of external assistance, including that provided by multilateral organizations, in order to effectively integrate such assistance into their development processes;

8. *Encourages* further integration of the priorities and objectives of the New Partnership into the programmes of the regional structures and organizations by African countries;

9. *Recalls* that the African Union and the regional economic communities have a critical role to play in the implementation of the New Partnership, and in this regard encourages African countries, with the assistance of their development partners, to increase their support to enhance the capacities of these institutions;

10. *Emphasizes* that progress in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development depends also on a favourable national and international environment for Africa's growth and development, including measures to promote a policy environment conducive to private sector development and entrepreneurship;

11. *Recognizes* that while social development is primarily the responsibility of Governments, international cooperation and assistance are essential for the full achievement of that goal;

12. *Welcomes* the efforts by development partners to strengthen cooperation with the secretariat of the New Partnership;

13. *Welcomes also* the contribution made by Member States to the implementation of the New Partnership in the context of South-South cooperation, and in this regard encourages the international community, including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of African countries, including through triangular cooperation;

14. *Acknowledges* the various important initiatives of Africa's development partners in recent years, including those of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Africa Action Plan of the Group of Eight, the

European Union, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, including the Africa-Asia Business Forum, the report of the Commission for Africa entitled *Our Common Interest* and the Africa Partnership Forum, and in this regard emphasizes the importance of coordination in such initiatives on Africa;

15. *Acknowledges also* the important role of the Africa Partnership Forum, as set out in the revised terms of reference dated 5 October 2005, which include catalysing action on the measures taken to meet the commitments that Africa and its development partners have made and coordinating support for African priorities and the New Partnership, and encourages the Africa Partnership Forum to strengthen its efforts in this regard;

16. *Urges* continuing support of measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa, including, as appropriate, debt relief, improved market access, support for the private sector and entrepreneurship, enhanced official development assistance, increased foreign direct investment and the transfer of technology;

17. *Welcomes* the recent increase in official development assistance pledged by many of the development partners, including the commitments of the Group of Eight and the European Union, which will lead to an increase in official development assistance to Africa of 25 billion dollars per year by 2010, and encourages all development partners to ensure aid effectiveness through the implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness: Ownership, Harmonization, Alignment, Results and Mutual Accountability of 2005;[3]

18. *Recognizes* the need for national Governments and the international community to make continued efforts to increase the flow of new and additional resources for financing for development from all sources, public and private, domestic and foreign, to support the development of African countries;

19. *Welcomes* the efforts by development partners to align their financial and technical support to Africa more closely with the priorities of the New Partnership, as reflected in national poverty reduction strategies or in similar strategies, and encourages development partners to increase their efforts in this regard;

20. *Acknowledges* the activities of the Bretton Woods institutions and the African Development Bank in African countries, and invites those institutions to continue their support for the implementation of the priorities and objectives of the New Partnership;

21. *Invites* the Secretary-General, as a follow-up to the 2005 World Summit, to urge the organizations of the United Nations system to assist African countries to implement quick-impact initiatives, based on their national development priorities and strategies, to enable them to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and in this respect acknowledges recent commitments by some donor countries;

22. *Notes* that the entities of the United Nations system have been actively using the regional consultation mechanism as a vehicle for fostering collaboration and coordination at the regional level, and encourages them to intensify their efforts in developing and implementing joint programmes in support of the New Partnership at the regional level;

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[3] See http://www.worldbank.org/html/extdr/pdfs/PARISFINALEFFECTIVENESSDECLARATION.pdf.

23. *Encourages* the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to continue to strengthen further their existing coordination and programming mechanisms and the simplification and harmonization of planning, disbursement and reporting procedures as a means of enhancing support for African countries in the implementation of the New Partnership;

24. *Notes* the growing collaboration among the entities of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, and requests the Secretary-General to promote greater coherence in the work of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, on the basis of the agreed clusters;

25. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General's Advisory Panel on International Support for the New Partnership,[14] and looks forward to its supplementary report, including recommendations on the actions to enhance support for the implementation of the New Partnership;

26. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to continue to raise awareness of the social dimensions of the New Partnership and its implementation and to provide recommendations on the measures to achieve this during the policy session in 2008;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take measures to strengthen the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, and requests the Office to collaborate with the Division for Economic and Social Affairs and to include the social dimensions of the New Partnership in its comprehensive reports to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;

28. *Encourages* continued focus on the situation of social groups and persons infected with and affected by HIV and AIDS, malaria and other infectious diseases;

29. *Decides* that the Commission for Social Development should continue to give prominence to the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development during its forty-fifth session.

Draft resolution IV
Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2005/11 of 21 July 2005 on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development, in which the Council decided that in order for the Commission to fulfil its mandate, beginning with its forty-fifth session, the work of the Commission will be organized in a series of two-year action-oriented implementation cycles on the three core themes of Copenhagen, poverty eradication, full employment and social integration, which will include a review and a policy segment,

Recalling also that in that same resolution the Council also decided that the Commission would continue to review plans and programmes of action pertaining to social groups including in relation to the priority theme,

* For the discussion, see chap. II, sect. A, paras. 4-8.

[14] A/60/85.

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, in which the Assembly invited the functional commissions and relevant follow-up mechanisms, as appropriate, to contribute, from their specific perspectives, to the assessment by the Council of the cross-sectoral thematic issue selected for the coordination segment of its substantive session,

Re-emphasizing the importance of an increased exchange of national, regional and international experiences in the cycles of the Commission, focusing on the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

1. *Decides* that the outcome of the Commission's review shall be in the form of a chairperson's summary, done in close coordination with other members of the Bureau, and that the policy segment shall have a negotiated outcome with action-oriented strategies;

2. *Also decides* that the theme for the 2007-2008 review and policy cycle will be "Promoting full employment and decent work for all", taking into account its interrelationship with poverty eradication and social integration;

3. *Notes* the usefulness of identifying the themes for the 2009-2010 review and policy cycle during the forty-sixth session;

4. *Decides* to include the agenda item "Emerging issues" in its programme of work;

5. *Invites* the relevant specialized agencies and entities of the United Nations system to contribute to the work of the Commission for Social Development by, inter alia, providing relevant information within their respective mandates;

6. *Stresses* the importance to identify relevant sub-themes within the priority theme to focus interventions and discussions, also taking into account cross-cutting issues.

B. Draft decision for adopted by the Council

2. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its forty-fourth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-fifth session

The Economic and Social Council

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its forty-fourth session;

(b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-fifth session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-fifth session of the Commission on Social Development

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:

(a) Promoting full employment and decent work for all.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on promoting full employment;

(b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups:

(i) World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

(ii) World Programme of Action for Youth;

(iii) Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;

(iv) Family issues, policies and programmes;

(c) Emerging issues.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General: implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth;

Report of the Secretary-General: major developments in the area of ageing since the Second World Assembly on Ageing;

Note by the Secretary-General: monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities.

4. Programme questions and other matters:

(a) Programme performance and implementation for the biennium 2004-2005;

(b) Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009;

(c) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General: nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development;

Note by the Secretary-General: report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development;

Note by the Secretary-General: draft programme of work of the Division for Social Policy and Development for the biennium 2008-2009.

5. Provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Commission.

6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-fifth session.

C. Resolution and decisions brought to the attention of the Council

3. The following resolution and decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

Resolution 44/1
Modalities for the first review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002*

The Commission for Social Development,

Recalling that in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[15] adopted by the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held in Madrid from 8 to 12 April 2002, the systematic review of its implementation by Member States was requested as being essential for its success in improving the quality of life of older persons and that the modalities of the review and appraisal were to be decided as soon as possible,

Bearing in mind that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2003/14 of 21 July 2003, invited Governments, the United Nations system and civil society to participate in a bottom-up approach to the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action,

Mindful that in its resolution 42/1 it decided to undertake the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action every five years,

Taking note of the report by the Secretary-General on modalities for the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action,[16]

1. *Endorses* the calendar for the first cycle of the review and appraisal proposed in the report of the Secretary-General;[17]

2. *Decides* to start the first global cycle of review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action in 2007 at its forty-fifth session and to conclude it in 2008 at its forty-sixth session;

3. *Endorses* as the global theme for the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, "Addressing the challenges and opportunities of ageing";

4. *Recommends* that the format of the concluding event of the first cycle of review and appraisal include, along with plenary debate, a series of panel discussions and events related to the theme of the first review and appraisal cycle;

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* For the discussion, see chap. III, sect. B, paras. 38–42.

[15] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[16] E/CN.5/2006/2.

[17] Ibid., paras. 34–38.

5. *Invites* those Member States that have not done so to establish their national mechanisms for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action at the national level and to inform the Secretariat accordingly, including the contact details of the national mechanisms, in order to facilitate international cooperation and exchange of information and good practices;

6. *Encourages* Member States to include both ageing-specific policies and ageing-mainstreaming efforts in their review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, bearing in mind the importance of mainstreaming ageing into global agendas;

7. *Invites* Member States to undertake an initial identification of actions they have taken since the Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002, with the aim of presenting this information to the Commission at its forty-fifth session in 2007, and requests them to identify specific areas for in-depth participatory inquiries using a bottom-up approach so that each country may establish for itself the action or activity it intends to review, utilizing such an approach;

8. *Invites* all major stakeholders, including civil society, to participate in the process of the review and appraisal and contribute to its various activities and events;

9. *Takes note with appreciation* of the draft guidelines proposed by the Secretary-General for the review and appraisal process, and requests that they be made available in all official languages of the United Nations;

10. *Requests* the Secretariat to work with the organizations, organs and bodies of the United Nations system and other interested parties to coordinate efforts in identifying support that could be provided to Governments, upon their request, in undertaking participatory review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action;

11. *Requests* the regional commissions to identify appropriate modalities for conducting the regional review and appraisal, encourages the convening of regional review and appraisal activities, and invites interested Governments to offer support and assistance, including voluntary financial contributions, to support national action in the context of the regional implementation and the convening of regional review and appraisal activities and events during 2006-2007;

12. *Recommends* to the Economic and Social Council the integration of ageing into monitoring, review and appraisal exercises of other major international development initiatives and policy frameworks, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[17] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[18] the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development[19] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[20] and the Beijing Platform for Action[21] and their follow-up processes;

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[17] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[18] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[19] Ibid., annex II.

[20] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its forty-fifth session in 2007, a report on major developments in the area of ageing since the Second World Assembly, which will include short regional contributions by the regional commissions;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its forty-sixth session in 2008, a report, including the conclusions of the first review and appraisal exercise along with the identification of prevalent and emerging issues and related policy options.

Decision 44/101
International migration and migrants from a social perspective

The Commission for Social Development, recalling General Assembly resolution 60/227 of 23 December 2005, entitled "International migration and development", in which the Assembly noted that the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women would have considered the issue of international migration within their respective mandates by the time of the high-level dialogue on international migration and development and invited their inputs through the Economic and Social Council, and the panel discussion on "International migration and migrants from a social perspective" held during its forty-second session:

Decides to transmit, through the Economic and Social Council, to the high-level dialogue on international migration and development, to be held in September 2006 during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, the Chairperson's summary of the panel discussion on international migration and migrants from a social perspective, held during its forty-second session.[22]

Decision 44/102
Review of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

The Commission for Social Development, recalling the priority theme of its forty-fourth session entitled "Review of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)", and the panel discussion held on the priority theme during the same session:

Decides to transmit to the coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council on the theme "Sustained economic growth for social development, including the eradication of poverty and hunger", to be held during its 2006 substantive session, the Chairperson's summary of the panel discussion on the priority theme, as follows:

[22] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 6* (E/2004/26), annex III.

Chairperson's summary of the panel discussion on the priority theme "Review of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)"

Progress over the Decade

There was general agreement that progress in poverty eradication has been mixed. While some regions have recorded strong performances (East Asia and part of South Asia, for example) others were less successful (sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America, for instance).

It was pointed out, however, that there are still some important unresolved methodological issues regarding the measurement of poverty and that the overall picture of progress in poverty eradication can be different depending on the assumptions and regional decomposition that are used when measuring poverty. For example, the Millennium Development Goal on poverty measures extreme poverty using the income line of $1 a day and there have been questions about whether this narrow concept of poverty provides a good indicator for monitoring poverty.

The importance of increasing the visibility of poor people received significant attention and it was stressed that when the poor are seen and made visible this can advance policies that will directly address their needs. In this regard, the point was made that better statistics are needed to measure poverty and raise the visibility of the poor. It was noted that a useful strategy to increase the visibility of the poor is to require policymakers to undertake poverty assessments of their proposed policies.

It was felt that the implementation of commitments made during the Decade had fallen short of expectations and there was evidence of an inverse correlation between promises made at Copenhagen and the results achieved thus far. Emerging trends suggest that progress on some social indicators, such as school enrolment and infant mortality, have slowed down in the past decade.

Key challenges in Africa

It was pointed out that while some regions in the world have experienced gains in the struggle against poverty, many countries in sub-Saharan Africa continue to be characterized by poverty that is pervasive, gender-based and largely rural in nature. It was observed that among the key factors that have led to increased poverty levels in many parts of Africa are lack of adequate infrastructure, poor human resources management, difficulties in accessing global markets; droughts and famine, political upheavals, conflicts and civil strife and the impact of HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases.

Agriculture remains the main economic activity for the majority of Africans, especially in the sub-Saharan region where it employs around 90 per cent of the rural population. However, agriculture is currently unable to sustain the needs of the expanding population because of problems such as low investments, poor quality seeds, lack of fertilizers, poor farming methods and lack of affordable technology.

The importance of involving people in poverty alleviation strategies was stressed; "bottom-up" strategies with broad-based participation have been

proven to work better with grass-roots support. Unemployment, especially among young people, is a serious problem and in order to achieve full, productive and decent employment, realistic and time-bound goals and targets need to be set.

Access to financial resources

Despite the mixed results with poverty eradication over the Decade, the last 10 years have shown that increasing the access of poor people to financial resources through microfinance is one of the success stories in poverty eradication. During the last decade, the number of people benefiting from microfinance has grown from 9 million to about 60 million borrowers worldwide.

Besides microfinance, remittances of funds has been receiving increased attention in recent years. However, despite the significant size of these flows, recipient countries have made little progress in harnessing them for local development. A significant portion of remittances is currently being used for current consumption, rather than for investment in education, for example. Local financial institutions can benefit from these remittance flows if they make an effort to change this pattern of expenditure by providing other services, such as housing loans and improved savings products to their customers.

International cooperation

It was acknowledged that the Decade for the Eradication of Poverty has been successful in placing poverty eradication at the centre of the international agenda and public opinion and has increasingly shaped national agendas. However, in terms of the commitment made in Copenhagen towards an enabling environment for social development, it was felt that there had been limited progress specifically in advancing access by developing countries to international economic opportunities and in achieving a system of fair trade. In addition, it was noted that there has been slow progress in providing debt relief to heavily indebted countries.

The importance of aid as a source of necessary resources for poverty eradication was highlighted. It was reiterated that efforts by developing countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals should be matched by corresponding efforts by developed countries to reach their overseas development assistance goal of 0.7 per cent of gross national product. Aid contributes significantly to development because data have shown that countries having received significant levels of aid have experienced better economic growth than others. However, it is important to distinguish two kinds of aid: developmental aid and geopolitical aid. It is only in the first case that aid can help countries in their development goals.

But aid per se is not a solution. It is also important that Governments be given the policy space needed to decide home-grown poverty reduction strategies and initiatives that reflect country-specific conditions and priorities, while at the same time taking into account the importance of efforts at the regional level. It was acknowledged that while the increased focus on the Millennium Development Goals has resulted in large amounts of aid flowing

into specific areas, this could result in a decrease in innovation in the use of such development assistance.

Overcoming obstacles and looking forward

It was stressed that unless there is a radical change in how poverty is addressed by governments and the international community, the poverty targets, including the Millennium Development Goals will not be achieved. It was noted in this context that while the World Summit on Social Development targeted poor people around the world, both in developed and developing countries, the current emphasis on the Millennium Development Goals directs attention mainly to the plight of the poor in developing countries.

It is important to recognize that growth alone is insufficient to reduce poverty. The quality of growth, that is the distribution of the benefits of growth, is also important. There is therefore a need to link growth centres with the rest of the population so that the benefits of growth are broad-based and widespread. In addition, the link between poverty eradication and full and productive employment was emphasized. In this context, the International Labour Organization decent work agenda was highlighted. Self-employment and microenterprises are the backbone of many economies, but for these types of enterprises to provide an exit out of poverty, poor people need to move into higher value activities. In this regard access to education is a critical component.

The private sector can play an important role in poverty eradication. In the microfinance sector, for example, the private sector has been an important component in expanding access of microfinance to women and youth. It is therefore necessary for the private sector to work with policymakers to achieve poverty eradication.

Finally, an important development during the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty has been enhanced partnerships. These can take the form of public-private, public-private-civil society or developed-developing countries partnerships. Partnerships between governments, civil society and the private sector, for example, have been shown to enhance efforts to eradicate poverty.

Decision 44/103
Documents considered by the Commission for Social Development under agenda item 3

The Commission for Social Development takes note of the following documents which were before it at its forty-fourth session:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006);[23]

(b) Report of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development on the monitoring of implementation of the Standard Rules on Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities.[24]

[23] E/CN.5/2006/3.
[24] E/CN.5/2006/4.

Chapter II

Organizational matters: further review of the methods of work of the Commission

A. Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development

1. The Commission considered the review of its methods of work under agenda item 2 at its 9th, 10th and 12th meetings, on 14, 16 and 17 February 2006. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development (E/CN.5/2006/5).

2. At the 9th meeting, on 14 February, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development made an introductory statement.

3. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of India and South Africa, by the observers for Cuba and Austria and by the Director of the Division.

Action taken by the Commission

4. At its 10th meeting, on 16 February, the Vice-Chairperson (South Africa) introduced a draft resolution entitled, "Future organization and methods of work by the Commission for Social Development" (E/CN.5/2006/L.5) submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

5. At its 12th meeting, on 17 February, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

6. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairperson (South Africa) introduced revisions to the draft resolution, which were circulated in an informal paper.

7. Following the adoption of the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution IV), the representative of South Africa made a statement.

8. At the resumed 12th meeting, on 22 March, the observer for Cuba made a statement.

B. International migration and migrants from a social perspective

9. At its 2nd meeting, on 8 February, the representative of El Salvador made a statement in connection with General Assembly resolution 60/227.

Action taken by the Commission

10. At its 10th meeting, on the proposal of the Chairperson, the Commission decided, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/227, to transmit, through the Economic and Social Council, to the high-level dialogue of the General Assembly, the Chairperson's summary of the panel discussion on "International migration and migrants from a social perspective" during its forty-second session in February 2004.

Chapter III

Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

1. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 2nd to 8th and 10th to 12th meetings, from 8 to 10, 13, 16 and 17 February 2006. It had before it documents E/CN.5/2006/2, E/CN.5/2006/3, E/CN.5/2006/4 and E/CN.5/2006/NGO/1-14.

2. At the 2nd meeting, on 8 February, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs addressed the Commission, after which the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development made an introductory statement on item 3 as a whole.

3. Also at the same meeting, following the statement by a representative of the community of non-governmental organizations on the outcome of the Civil Society Forum, the keynote speaker, Clare Short (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) addressed the Commission.

4. At the same meeting, comments were made by the delegations of China, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Finland, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Action taken by the Commission under agenda item 3 as a whole

Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

5. At its 10th meeting, on 16 February, the representative of South Africa (Group of 77 and China) introduced a draft resolution entitled "Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development" (E/CN.5/2006/L.6).

6. At its 12th meeting, on 17 February, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of South Africa (Group of 77 and China) introduced revisions to the draft resolution, which were circulated in an informal paper.

8. Also at the same meeting, following the adoption of the draft resolution, as revised (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution III), statements were made by the representatives of Pakistan and the United States of America and by the observers for Austria (European Union) and Cuba.

A. Priority theme: review of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) (agenda item 3 (a))

9. At its 4th and 5th meetings, on 9 February, the Commission held a general discussion on agenda item 3 (a).

10. At the 4th meeting, on 9 February, statements were made by the representatives of South Africa[3] (Group of 77 and China), Finland, Turkey, Suriname (Caribbean Community), Argentina, the United Republic of Tanzania, China, Spain, the Republic of Moldova and Bangladesh, and the observers for Austria (European Union), Israel, Guyana[3] (Rio Group), Egypt and the Holy See.

11. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representatives of the United Nations Population Fund, the International Council on Social Welfare[3] and Triglav Circle.[3]

12. At the 5th meeting, on 9 February, statements were made by the representatives of Pakistan, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, India, Paraguay, the Republic of Korea, Chile, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Russian Federation, Monaco, Angola, Peru and Zambia, and the observers for Iraq, Lithuania, Belarus, Morocco[3] and Colombia.

13. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the observer for the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the representatives of the International Chamber of Commerce,[3] jointly with the International Association of Employers,[3] VIVAT International[3] and International Movement ATD Fourth World.[3]

14. At its 3rd meeting, on 8 February, the Commission held a panel discussion under sub-item 3 (a) moderated by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. Presentations were made by J. M. Bahemuka, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations; Nancy Barry, Women's World Banking, New York; Roberto Bissio, Third World Institute, Uruguay; and Professor Sanjay Reddy, Barnard College, Columbia University, New York, who also engaged in an interactive dialogue with the representatives of the Dominican Republic, Finland, India, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea. The observer for the International Right to Life Federation, Inc.[3] also made a statement.

15. At its resumed 12th meeting, on 22 March, on the proposal by the Chairperson, the Commission decided to take note of documents E/CN.5/2006/3 and E/CN.5/2006/4 (see chap. I, sect. C, draft decision 44/103).

Action taken by the Commission under agenda item 3 (a)

16. At its 12th resumed meeting, on 22 March, on the proposal of the Chairperson, the Commission decided to transmit the Chairperson's summary of the panel discussion on the priority theme to the coordination segment of the 2006 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, sect. C, draft decision 44/102).

17. At the same meeting, the representative of South Africa (Group of 77 and China) made a statement.

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[3] On item 3 as a whole.

[4] Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

B. Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups (agenda item 3 (b))

18. At its 6th and 8th meetings, on 10 and 13 February, the Commission held a general discussion on agenda item 3 (b).

19. At its 6th meeting, on 10 February, following the statement by the Director of the Division, the Commission heard a presentation on the technical cooperation project entitled "Tackling poverty together: the role of young people in poverty reduction" by the United Nations Programme on Youth.

20. Also at the 6th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Bangladesh, China, Spain and Haiti,[1] and the observers for Austria, Cuba,[1] Azerbaijan,[1] Algeria[1] and Sierra Leone[1] (African Group).

21. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the International Federation of Association of the Elderly,[2] Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace,[2] International Federation on Ageing,[2] International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse[2] and Help Age International.[2]

22. At the 7th meeting, on 10 February, statements were made by the representatives of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (also on behalf of the Economic Commission for Europe) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

23. At its 7th meeting, the Commission held a panel discussion on the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. Presentations were made by Ms. Mery Lozana de Aranibar, Association of Older People "Experience and Life" (Bolivia), Mr. Bienvenido Rola, Institute of Strategic Planning and Policy Studies (Philippines), and Dr. Irina Nicolae Baicalov, "Second Breath for Moldova" (Republic of Moldova).

24. At the 8th meeting, on 13 February, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Monaco, the Republic of Korea, Peru, the Central African Republic, Indonesia, Senegal and Mali,[1] and the observers for the Philippines,[1] Kazakhstan,[1] Qatar and the Sudan.[1]

25. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the observers for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO)[2] and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta.[2]

26. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the International Federation of Pedestrians,[2] Observatory for Cultural and Audiovisual Communication,[2] New Humanity,[2] International Federation for the Family[2] and World Youth Alliance.[2]

[1] On sub-item 3 (a).

Action taken by the Commission under agenda item 3 (b)

Comprehensive and integral international convention to protect and promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities

27. At its 7th meeting, on 10 February, the Commission decided to annex the Chairperson's summary of the panel discussion on the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002 to the report on its 44th session (see annex).

28. At the 10th meeting, on 16 February, the representative of Mexico, on behalf of Colombia,[4] Costa Rica,[4] Cuba,[4] Dominican Republic, El Salvador,[4] Guatemala,[4] Israel,[4] Japan, Mexico,[4] Morocco,[4] Paraguay, Philippines,[4] South Africa and Uruguay,[4] as well as Ecuador,[4] Panama,[4] Peru and Switzerland,[4] introduced draft resolution E/CN.5/2006/L.4. Angola, Chad,[4] Qatar,[4] Republic of Korea, Senegal and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

29. At its 11th meeting, on 17 February, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

30. At the same meeting, the representative of Mexico announced that Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil,[4] China, Indonesia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. Algeria,[4] Cameroon,[4] Jamaica[4] and the United Republic of Tanzania joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

31. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.5/2006/L.4 (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II).

32. At the 12th meeting, on 17 February, the observer for Thailand made a statement.[5]

Promoting youth employment

33. At the 10th meeting, on 16 February, the representative of Senegal, on behalf of Azerbaijan,[4] Colombia,[4] Indonesia, Kenya,[4] Mali, Morocco,[4] Nigeria,[4] Senegal, Sierra Leone[4] and the Sudan[4] introduced draft resolution E/CN.5/2006/L.3. Angola, Chad[4] and South Africa joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

34. At its 12th meeting, on 17 February, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

35. At the same meeting, the representative of Senegal introduced revisions to the draft resolution which were circulated in an informal paper, and announced that Guatemala,[4] Guinea,[4] Spain, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. Algeria,[4] Austria,[4] Brazil,[4] the Czech Republic, the Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece,[4] Haiti, Ireland,[4] Italy, Japan, Malta, Namibia,[4] the Netherlands, the Philippines,[4] Poland,[4]

[4] In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

[5] The observer for Thailand indicated that he would have joined in sponsoring the draft resolution had he been present at the time of its adoption.

Portugal,[5] the Republic of Moldova, Slovenia,[5] Sweden,[5] Thailand,[5] Turkey and the United Kingdom[5] joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

36. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.5/2006/L.3, as revised (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I).

Modalities for the first review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

37. At the 10th meeting, on 16 February, the representative of Monaco, on behalf of Andorra,[3] Austria,[4] Bolivia, China, the Czech Republic, Denmark,[4] Estonia,[4] Finland, France, Germany, Greece,[4] Hungary,[4] Ireland,[4] Italy, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Poland,[4] Portugal,[5] the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia,[4] Slovenia,[4] Spain, Sweden,[5] and the United Kingdom,[4] as well as Israel,[5] introduced and orally revised draft resolution E/CN.5/2006/L.2. Angola, Chad[6] and South Africa joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

38. At its 11th meeting, on 17 February, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

39. At the same meeting, the representative of Monaco further orally revised the draft resolution and announced that Argentina and Japan had joined in sponsoring it. The Dominican Republic, Guatemala,[4] Haiti, Qatar,[5] Turkey and Uruguay[5] joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

40. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.5/2006/L.2 as further orally revised (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 44/1).

41. At the 12th meeting, on 17 February, the observer for Thailand made a statement.[7]

Chapter IV

Provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its resumed 12th meeting, on 22 March 2006, and adopted the draft provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-fifth session of the Commission as contained in document E/CN.5/2006/L.7 (see chap. I, sect. B).

Chapter V

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-fourth session

1. At the resumed 12th meeting, on 22 March 2006, Victor Leu (Republic of Moldova), Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur, introduced the draft report (E/CN.5/2006/L.1).

2. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report and entrusted the Rapporteur with its completion.

Chapter VI
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission for Social Development held its forty-fourth session on 18 February 2005 and 8 to 17 February and 22 March 2006 (it held 12 meetings) (1st to 12th).

B. Attendance

2. The session was attended by representatives of 45 States members of the Commission. The list of participants is issued as document E/CN.5/2006/INF.1.

C. Election of officers

3. In accordance with decision 2002/210, the Commission held the first meeting of its forty-fourth session on 18 February 2005 and elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairperson:

Ernesto Aranibar **Quiroga** (Bolivia)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Valerie **Bruell-Melchior** (Monaco)
Victor **Leu** (Republic of Moldova)

and postponed the election of the remaining members of the Bureau.

4. At its 2nd meeting, on 8 February 2006, the Commission was informed that Mr. Aranibar Quiroga could no longer carry out his functions as Chairperson and the Commission elected Javier Loayza Barea (Bolivia), by acclamation, as Chairperson of its forty-fourth session.

5. At the same meeting, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Nina Saraswati Djajaprawira (Indonesia) and Luvuyo Lonsdale Ndimeni (South Africa) as Vice-Chairpersons, and also designated the Vice-Chairperson Victor Leu (Republic of Moldova) as Rapporteur.

D. Agenda and organization of work

6. At its 2nd meeting, on 8 February, following the statement by the observer for El Salvador, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/CN.5/2006/1, as revised. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters: further review of the methods of work of the Commission.
3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:

(a) Priority theme: review of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006);

(b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups:

(i) World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

(ii) World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond;

(iii) Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;

(iv) Family issues, policies and programmes.

4. Provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Commission.

5. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-fourth session.

7. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Commission approved its organization of work contained in annex I to document E/CN.5/2006/1.

8. At the same meeting, the Commission decided to annex the Chairperson's summary of the panel discussion on the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing to its report.

E. Documentation

9. The documentation before the Commission at its forty-fourth session is contained in document E/CN.5/2006/1.

Annex

Chairperson's summary of the panel discussion on the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

The objective of the panel discussion was to illustrate the value of participatory methodologies and to provide practical examples of how bottom-up approaches can inform policy implementation and review and appraisal exercises. The Commission agreed, in its resolution 42/1, to adopt a bottom-up approach for the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002.

Participatory bottom-up monitoring by civil society

A project in Bolivia illustrates how older persons can contribute to the policy process with sufficient support. Monitoring groups of older persons in five cities were established by a non-governmental organization that monitored the entitlement to free medical insurance for older persons. The monitoring groups wanted to find out whether older persons knew about their right to health care (free for persons over age 60), had access to it and were being treated with respect when seeking it. The groups also wanted to see if health care was being funded according to law.

It was found that older persons were discriminated against if they were only able to speak in their native language; they were sometimes treated badly by health care staff or not treated because they are old; and often had to wait for 5 to 8 hours to see a doctor. In rural areas, older persons had no access to free medical care. Many lacked the documentation needed to access their right to free care and did not know where or how to get it. Doctors and administrators indicated that a major problem was that the national health fund was not receiving adequate resources to fund the free health care programme. Therefore, the monitoring groups met with the responsible local and national authorities, with an improved outcome: older persons no longer have to wait as long to see a doctor, and the Ministry of Finance is providing payment to the health services for older care.

Benefits of bringing older persons into the policy process

A key issue for older persons in the Republic of Moldova was rapid emigration of youth (up to half of the population in some villages), which had left many older persons without family support. More than one in six of those remaining in the country were older persons, approximately 44 per cent of whom were considered to be poor because pensions provided only about one quarter of the minimum subsistence. There had been attempts by the Government in recent years to provide some minimum level of additional benefits but there was no national plan of action on ageing.

A national non-governmental organization undertook a participatory mapping exercise with older persons in 2005 which identified priority areas for policy changes. The results, which were presented to Government officials, civil society and the media in 2005, included older persons having more self-confidence and knowledge about their rights; a feeling of being more useful to society as a result of

volunteer activities and training others; more contact with younger persons; and a better understanding from the Government on issues concerning older persons.

Government/civil society mechanisms for review and appraisal

The "bottom-up approach" to review and appraisal was a process that should involve all stakeholders. The Philippines had a long history of participation between non-governmental organizations and the Government. Non-governmental organizations were represented at the national and regional levels. An office of senior citizens affairs was to be established in each municipality under a new plan of action, to be headed by a senior citizen. The Philippines had the building blocks in place for a more in-depth participatory approach as envisioned in the Madrid review and appraisal process.

However the evaluation undertaken by the inter-agency committee on the implementation of the previous national plan of action (1999-2004) had shown little participation in policy formulation by older persons due to poverty, lack of knowledge or indifference. Pilot community workshops and seminars recently held pointed to a lack of awareness of laws, rights and entitlements of older persons and low participation rates by the poor, due mainly to financial constraints. The case studies of projects in Bolivia and Moldova illustrated how including older persons into the policy process can overcome these issues.

These few examples made it clear that bottom-up, participatory review and appraisal can be a tool for better decision-making and improved policies and programmes. Participatory methods provide essential information to policymakers and help older persons feel more connected to their societies. The approach is in line with the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, which views older persons as active contributors rather than passive recipients of care.

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